

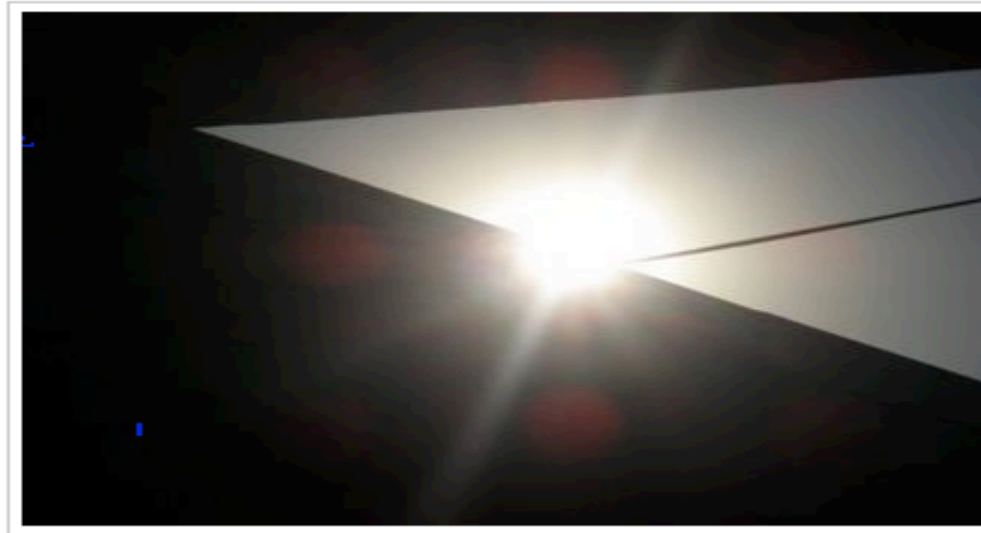
LTP Blog

This LTP Blog is a continuation of the Literacy Through Photography project under the auspices of Houston International FotoFest. Last year's theme was self-portraiture, and this year's blog theme was open so students could take pictures of objects/subjects as they saw fit for self-expression through the photographic medium and writing about the images.

Eisenhower Middle School [Wyckoff, New Jersey] and Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [Houston, Texas] continued their participation in the LTP project.

The students went out with their cameras and documented objects/subjects of their choosing. They analyzed their images under the guidance of their instructors and wrote about them. They then posted their images and descriptive writing to the blog for comments/feedback from their classmates and students at each school.

Ramiro, 7th Grade, RYSS



This is a very interesting image because I like how it shows my feelings. I like how there's a star burst. Also, you can see that the only source of light is the sun. It shows you that it can light up almost whatever it wants. But this is a very peculiar/strange image because it shows you a black background with the rays of the sun. What I also like about this image is that there's an acute angle, and in between that angle, the sun is located. And there's a cable that seems to be in the sun.

Ramiro, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Damian at EMS



I was walking around the school looking for some pictures to take. I walked all over the place for something that would "drag" me in to take the picture. I walked down a hallway and saw that all the lockers had no locks and were bolted shut. I thought that if I could bend down and stand off to the side it would be the best picture. I took 50 pictures and this one is the best.

Samantha, 8th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because one of the wizards is sticking out his tongue, and it looks funny. The other wizard looks mad. If you look at their shadows, they look like bunnies from the side. The shadows are dark, and as they get lighter, they get blue. There are a lot of different colors ... blue, red, purple, violet, and white. When I took this picture, I felt like laughing because of the funny looking wizards.

Samantha, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Josh at EMS



My friend and I were walking through the school, and we walked into a hallway with a lot of windows. We started taking pictures of the outside, and then my friend saw his shadow. We both started taking pictures of our shadows and eventually, I went directly behind him. Since we are the same height, I had to tilt my head to the side to see what I was about to take a picture of. Originally, I laughed at the picture because it looked funny. Then, I thought that it was a really good picture.

Lucia, 7th Grade, RYSS



When you look at this picture, you might think I was upside down when I took it. This picture has a very abstract look. For me, the shadows and shapes are very interesting. You can even see someone's shoes pointing at a different angle. This picture makes me feel like the world is moving in an upward way, which is a pretty cool thing to happen. This picture is special because you don't see this every day. When you look at this picture, it makes you think about what it is. You may ask questions.

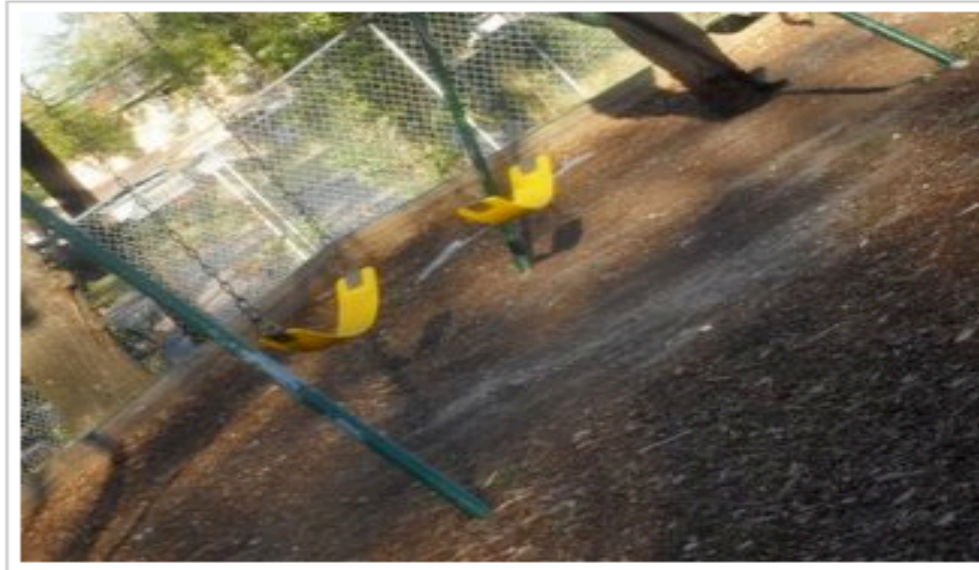
Lucia, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Billy At EMS



I was in my EMS classroom when I took this picture. I was actually holding my camera down and pressed the button by accident. This picture is obviously of my feet and the bottom of my sweatshirt. I took over 50 different photos, but I think this one is my best. I like this photo because it is very original.

Liliana, 8th Grade, RYSS



The reason why I took this picture is because I imagined little kids fighting over the swings and remembered when I was young, I used to swing. It was like flying because it felt so good when the air hit my face. I love swinging. When there are no little kids at the swings, it's very lonely. And it's quiet. You don't hear anything but birds. It's that quiet love you can feel in the shadows and the air moving the swings. I love this image. For me, it's really exciting.

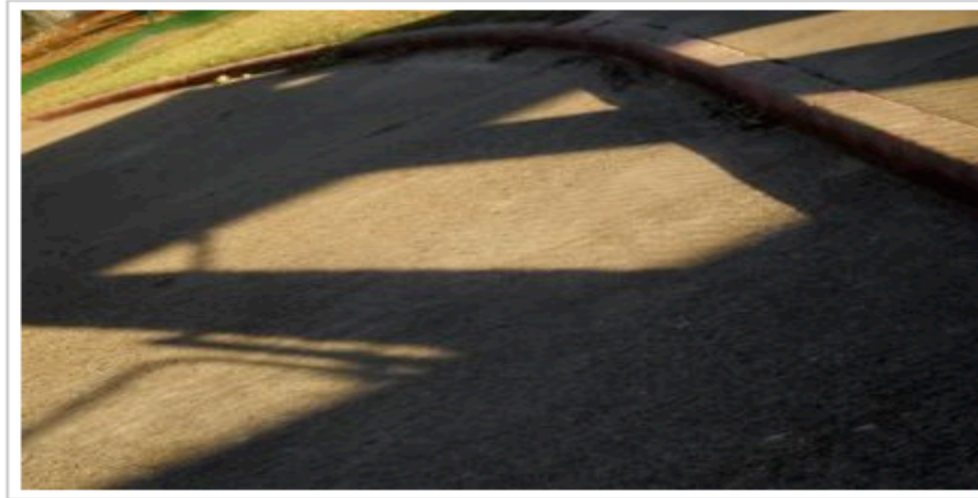
Liliana, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Peter at EMS



I was out walking through my school alone taking pictures. I passed the courtyard, and I felt the wind. I looked outside and thought to myself, "What's out there?" I went outside to sit on the bench. I stayed outside and just sat there. I looked around to see what was there. I saw the table with some snow on it. I thought it would be the perfect picture. When I looked through the camera screen, it looked really sharp, and the lighting was perfect. When I took the picture, the snow looked perfectly white. The cool thing was I didn't even move. Once I saw this picture, I thought it was a real keeper. It gives you a real picture of winter. You don't really see anyone because of the snow.

Leimy, 8th Grade, RYSS



I really like this picture. It makes me feel like I am in a little parking lot. The shapes of the shadows are interesting because I have never seen anything like this. In the middle shadow, one side looks like a triangle, and the other side looks like a diamond. I really like the way the diamond looks. On the left side of the picture, it looks like if there is a fence in the shadow. The background of the picture makes it interesting because there is grass, and it looks beautiful. When I look at this picture, it seems mysterious because you can't really see what it is. It makes people think. The dark side of the picture looks like it is raining and a sad day, and the light side looks like it is sunny and a happy day. What I also like about this image is that there are a lot of different shapes and a lot of different ideas of what this picture could be. Another reason I took this picture is because I like shadows. Some people may think that this is a boring picture but for me, it is really exciting.

Leimy, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

John @ EMS



This was my best picture by far. I used a picture of a basketball hoop that I took a while back but I gave it a twist. I found a basic picture of a scoreboard and painted over it to make it look like it was the end of a basketball game. I found a picture of a basketball and pasted it in. I made a trail of stars behind it to make it look like it was going towards the hoop. Then I painted the edges of the hoop red like a hoop in a real basketball game. That's why I called it "Buzzer Beater".

John

Maribel, 8th Grade, RYSS



I took this picture of the lock because it represents something. For me, it represents that you got locked up and lost your liberty or something that you will never have again. It brings you depression because you lost something. It is kind of rusty, which means that it hasn't been opened for a long time. The impression that I have from this picture is pretty depressing and cool at the same time. The thing that's cool is that it has the word, Master at the bottom and for me, it means like some master owns it, or a master can only open it. The shapes of the lock and latch are pretty interesting.

Maribel, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Harry @ EMS



I think this is my best photograph. I think this because it has two of my best friends in it. Also it has some of Eisenhower's mottos and best phrases such as Believe, Achieve, and Succeed.

Lastly it has a great message not just to us, but also for the children of the future!!!

"Eisenhower is Drug Free!!!!"

By: Harry

Jonathan P., 7th Grade, RYSS



What I think about this picture is how you can see [click on picture for larger view] some ants scattering around trying to run away from people who are trying to step on them. The shadows are nice, and the sunlight is tilted to an angle where you can see half of the ants and their living place and also half of the shadow. If you look close, you can see an ant climbing onto a leaf. I also like their surroundings and how they are running for their lives. They are frightened to death because they are about to be stepped on. I also like how the sun shines on the ants. It's amazing you can see the ants coming out of every place they can. I also like how they are gathering everything they can. I decided to take this picture because I thought it would be interesting to see ants close up and how they react when someone destroys their home. I really like the way the sun is shining on the grass.

Jonathan P., 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Katelyn @ EMS



I think this is the best picture I've created in this class. I think this because the idea behind it is very interesting and unique. The picture may look manipulated, but it is straight photography. Most people don't believe me when I say this though. All that I did to take this picture was, I used the reflection of my feet walking in the window. The reason that my feet are really dark and the rest of the picture is light, is because the sunlight is casting a shadow through the window and my feet are the shadow in the picture. The background is just an empty courtyard with rocks and that's what gives the picture such a good effect. This is my favorite picture because it is one of the coolest to look at from my point of view. My eye travels easily through this whole picture because there is a good amount of color contrast throughout the picture and there is a lot going on which is good.

Katelyn

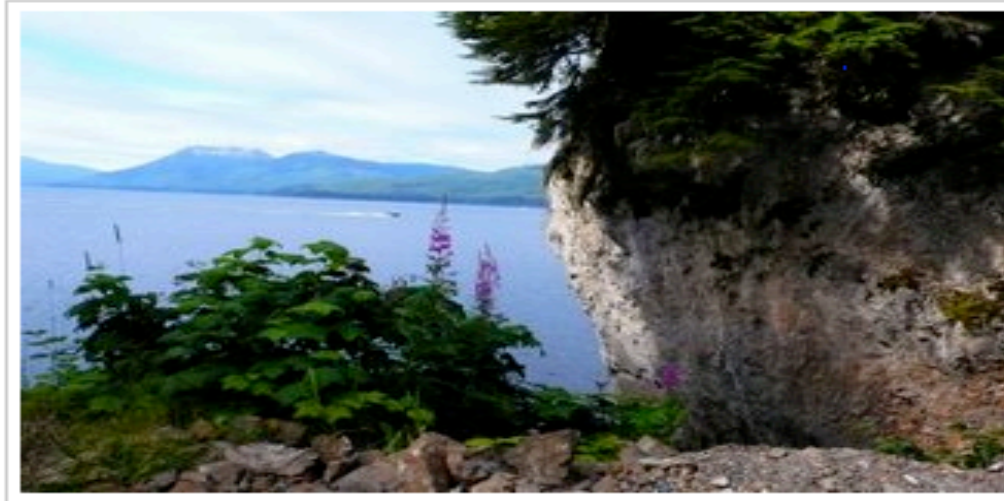
Jonathan B., 7th Grade, RYSS



I hope this picture is amusing for you as it is for me. I like it because of the light and the water running down the hose. Can you see the shadow on the wall of the water hose and the branches? If you look from far away, the branches look like spider legs. And I like this picture because it has a cool and weird form.

Jonathan B., 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

Julianne@ EMS



I think this is my best photo because I really 'captured the moment'.

In the background, there is a whale tail, and this was what all of Alaska looked like. There are mountains (behind the whale), beautiful flowers, trees, stone, and rocks, all these nature products are pictured in this picture. Also the colors vary and there is a lot of prospective, from the flowers to the big rock, to the water, the mountains, and the mountains behind the mountains. When I took this picture my grandma (artist) told me this was going to be an award-winning picture. The picture includes all the colors of nature, green, blue, brown, purple, and grey. This picture also shows shadows because I took this picture around 1:30 so there would be a little shadow (a shadow is present because of the tree branch is hanging over the rock).

Julianne

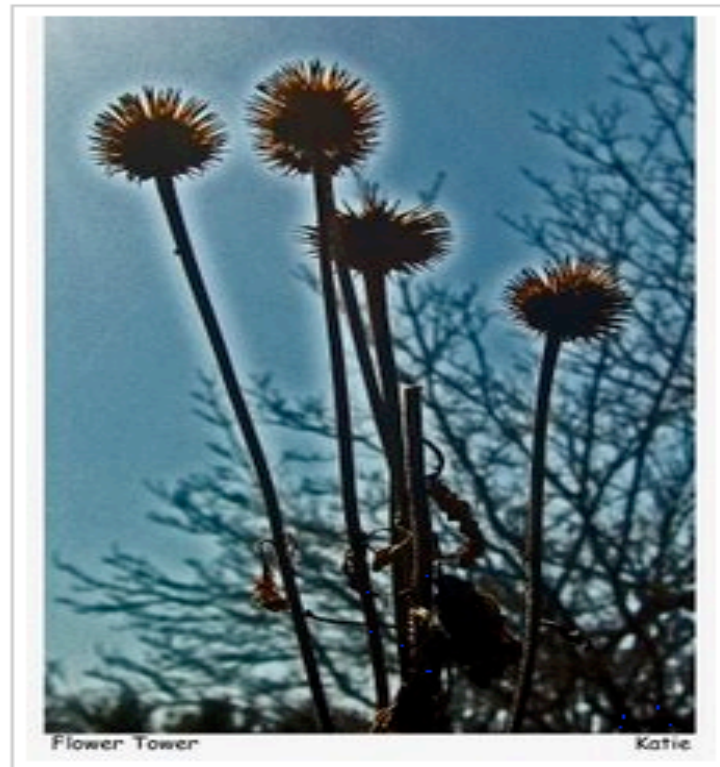
Jazlyn, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because there are two different types of shoes, and they are styles that I like. These shoes are mine and Daniel's. One pair ... Jordans and the other pair ... Converse. The picture shows the ground and the shadows. If you look closely, there is a tiny rock in the middle. I like that both pairs of shoes are black and have bright bursting colors like red and white. There are streaks on the concrete. I think this picture came out very well.

Jazlyn, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

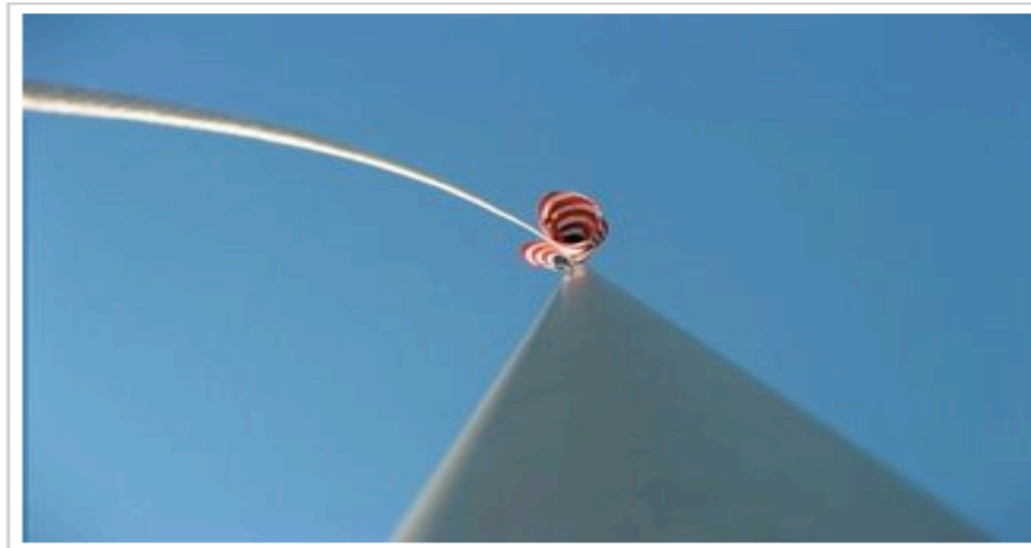
Katie @ EMS



This image is called Flower Tower. It is straight photography, but I adjusted the lighting in order to enhance the picture. This made the picture better by creating more contrast between the sky, trees, and flowers. I chose this picture as my favorite because I thought the edges around the flower looked interesting, and received the best effect from the lighting adjustment.

Katie

Ivan, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it's very inspiring to look at the American flag this way because you look at it and think about it and you remember what it means. I like how the picture looks because the shape of the flag and the shape of the flagpole and the rope all look really cool. The flag has an oval shape, and the pole looks like it's getting wider and wider, but it looks like that because of the way I took the picture. The rope looks the way it does because that day when I took the picture, it was windy. We look at the flag in many ways and in many places, but I wondered what it would be like if I took the picture of the flag in a very different way. So that's what inspired me to take this picture.

Ivan, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

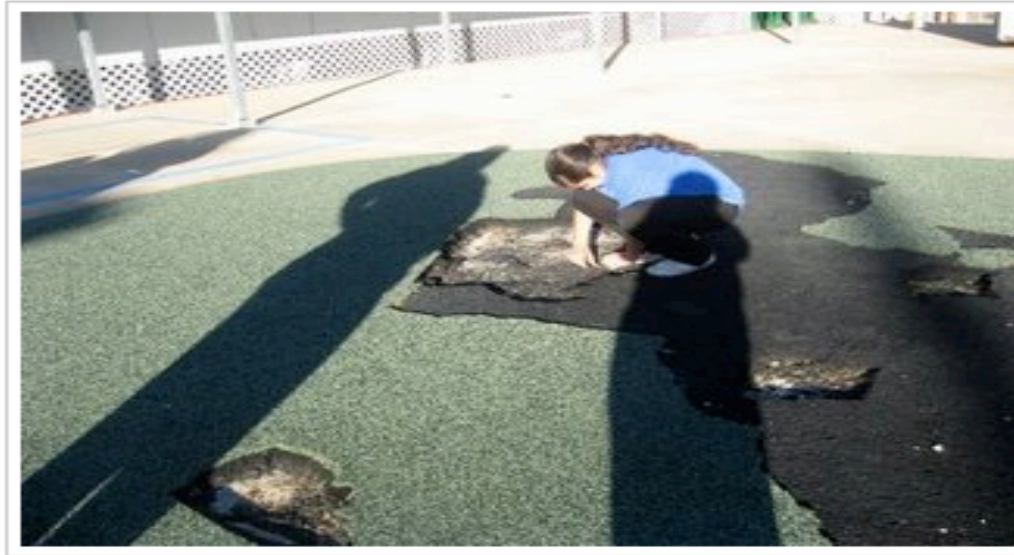
Allison @ EMS



I think this is my best manipulated image that I have completed during the cycle of this class. I like this image for various reasons. First, I liked how I took all of the pictures myself, including the plane wing. I learned a lot about enhancing the picture because the only way I was able to get the picture of the plane wing was out of a window. The window fogged up the image so I learned how to fix it. Another reason why I liked this image was because I enjoyed taking the pictures of the people. They got to pick their own poses and it represents who they truly are. Once my family and I were getting a picture taken and I had to stand on two wooden blocks. The photographer said to me, "Pictures lie." That is another one of the things I learned with this project. I had to make simple pictures into something nonrealistic. That is why I named the picture "Realistic?" I especially enjoyed the lighting in this image. The bottom of the picture is very light and the top of the picture is darker. Manipulated photography was one of my favorite projects, too! These are just some of the reasons that I liked this image the best.

Allison

Geneva, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because of the shadows. When you look at the picture, you can see a girl (Kelly, my friend) and two shadows. One of the shadows is me and the other (left) is my teacher, Mr. Chambers. My shadow goes over Kelly. At the very corner of the picture is a group of shadows. My friend is playing with the dirt on the ground. In my shadow, you can see the way I'm holding the camera. It looks like a happy, but boring day. I say this because it is really bright and to me, brightness is supposed to be happy. And I say it is boring because Kelly is squatting on the ground playing with the dirt because she has nothing else to do.

Geneva, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

JP @ EMS



This is my best photograph because I used some great layer styles and effects. In this picture, I made short lines on top of a photo. Then, I added a layer style. This created an interesting photo. Also, the topic is pretty interesting. The background is also eye-opening.

To make the background, I used a "special effects" brush. Ultimately, I believe this is a great photo because it has many great elements.

JP

Francisco, 7th Grade, RYSS



This is very interesting to me because the sign on the yellow bar says no parking, but it looks like a car is parked there. The only reason it looks like that is because of the shadow of the car. It also looks interesting because of the shadows of two things. One of them is the shadow of the car and the other is the shadow of the blue pole. Because of the angle at which the picture was taken, it is kind of slanted. This makes it special.

Francisco, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas.

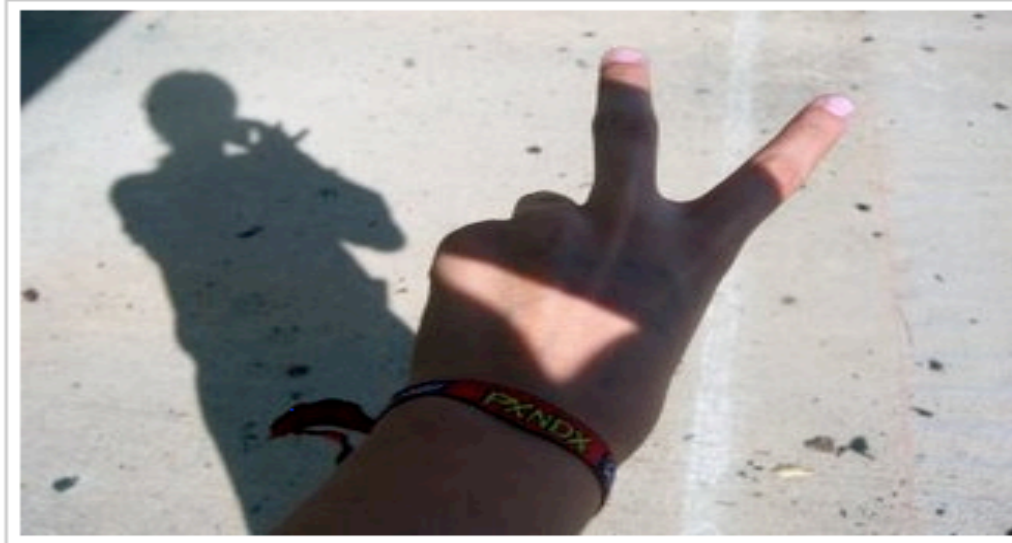
Christian @ EMS



In my best photo I made it look awesome. First I colored one of the pictures to make it look the way it does. I just colored all the different components of the person. Then I doubled the canvas size and then copied the picture. Lastly I rotated one of the pictures. To make it look like the person is back to back with himself.

Christian

Samantha, 8th Grade, RYSS



I really like this picture because it has my shadow and me showing the peace sign. You can see my bracelet that says Panda. That's my second favorite band. In my shadow, you can see I have a camera in my hand while I'm taking this picture. If you look very closely right by my finger, there's a red line. I don't know what it has to do with my picture, but it's a really cool red line. Also, if you look at my hand, you can see a drawing of a smiley face with vampire teeth, and under that face, it says, vampire.

Samantha, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Ramiro, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like how the shadows are showing what we are doing and thinking. I like how they are running one way and we another way. In the picture, there are four of us, each one doing a different thing. The reason why I took this image is because it shows how each one of us is thinking. I'm the one who's making the peace sign. I think that in the world, there should be peace. What I also like about the image is how it shows someone's foot. What is cool in this image is how everyone is at different angles. What I mean by this is that some of us are facing forward while others are facing to the side. I'm inspired by this picture. I really think this image shows who we are.

Ramiro, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Lucia, 7th Grade, RYSS



I really like this picture. It shows a lonely, mysterious angle. I took this picture by accident when I was trying to take a picture of the building on the other side of the fence. It also shows small parts of branches that have started to grow on the fence. The picture makes me feel like I'm in a mystery movie. It shows the sad mood of someone passing by. I really like this picture because it shows the mood that I had when I took the picture ... sad.

Lucia, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Leimy, 8th Grade, RYSS



When you look at a tree, the leaves are what make you happy. I really like this picture because green is one of my favorite colors. When I saw this tree, I looked straight at the leaves. I really like the shape of the leaves and especially if you turn them around, they look like teardrops. I am very attracted to leaves because I like the way some are green and when seasons change, they turn yellow, red, orange and other colors. I like the fact that they have little veins. Leaves are like humans. They drink water and breathe. They give us life. Without trees and leaves, we probably wouldn't be alive right now.

Leimy, 8th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

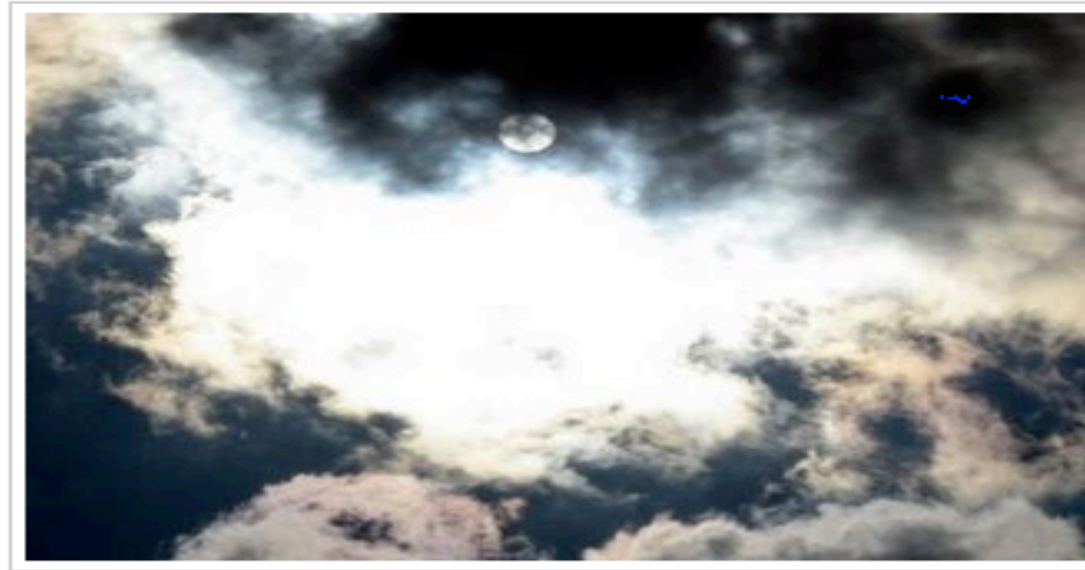
Kelly, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because it is of my two friends who are acting weird and just playing. And I caught them posing and checking themselves out in their reflection. On the left is a yellow line of the parking lot. It was the day after it rained, so there were still a lot of puddles. In the background of the reflection, you can see the sky and the clouds. I think this looks cool. Another reason I like this picture is because it ends at their knees. I took this picture because my friends always make me happy. When I look at this picture, it makes me think of all the good times we have had and will have in the future.

Kelly, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

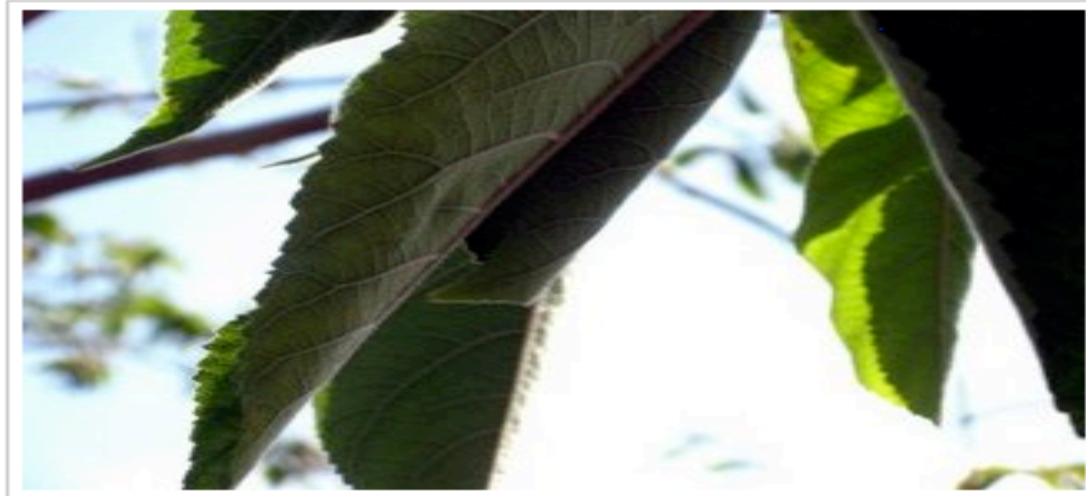
Julio, 7th Grade, RYSS



As you can see, the sun can be seen in my picture. To give you a clue where the sun is, you need to look at the black-colored cloud. The reason the cloud is black is because of the reflection of the camera. Since I like clouds, I decided to take a picture of them. When I saw this picture in the digital camera, I was surprised how the sun looked. The clouds were awesome. When I see pictures of clouds, I feel happy. I never thought that a picture of the sun and clouds would look this amazing.

Julio, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Jonathan P., 7th Grade, RYSS



This picture is great. I like it because it shows nature and life. What I like about it the most is the point of view. It is awesome from the side, and you can see the sun's reflection. I like how it's showing the sun, and you can see a reflection of a leaf. The sun hitting it shows a lot of detail. Also, you can see that the background of the picture is blurry. This is because I concentrated or focused on the leaves. When I took the picture, I knew it was going to come out great. I tried to focus the lens close so the background wouldn't show, just the leaves. The picture makes me happy. I think it's because of how I focused and the angle. I feel great about it. Though I haven't expressed my feelings too much, it's a good job, and I like it. This picture reminds me of science which isn't my favorite subject though plants look good if you really look at them. It depends on how you look at them. This picture describes living things in nature. It shows the fresh air and how the hot sun shines. It happens often, but the plant still lives if it has water. You can also see the branches in the left corner.

Jonathan P., 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

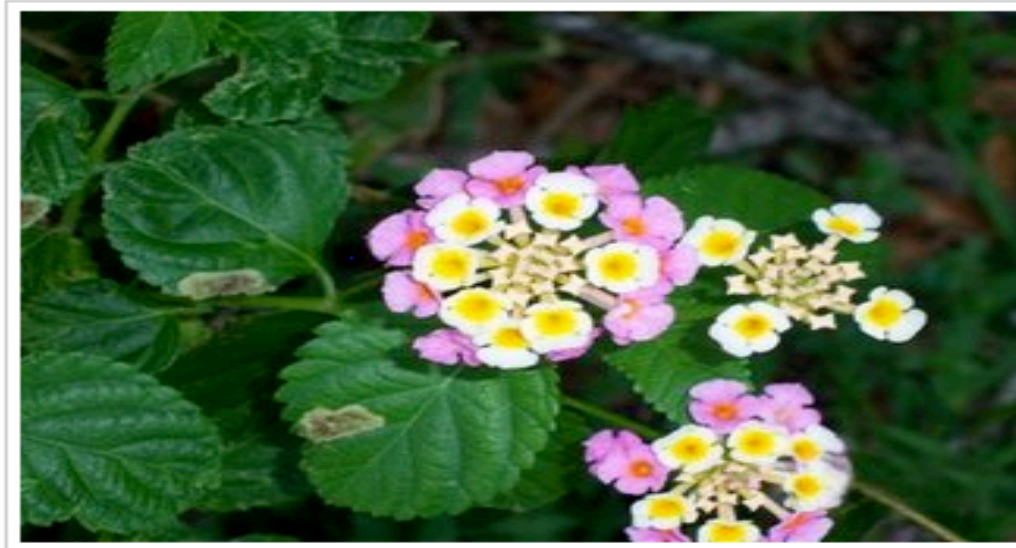
Jonathan B., 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because of the color. The symbol of the car is very interesting. You can see the shadow on top and the sun reflecting. Under the symbol, you can see the black line. This means that I took a picture of the trunk of a car. Blue is my favorite color, and this car is my favorite type.

Jonathan B., 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success, Houston, Texas

Jazlyn, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like this picture because of the warm bright colors. The flowers have a mysterious shape to them. They look punky and unique. I felt like I had to take this picture because it just opened my eyes with the colors. It is really cool because the smell of it is fresh. You can see the flower has five different layers of shapes. One looks like diamonds, then a yellow spot on top of a white spot, and pink big circles with a spot of orange-red. These colors make me happy because they remind me of summertime. The green, fresh look of the leaves make the flowers stand out. Nature is so pretty.

Jazlyn, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

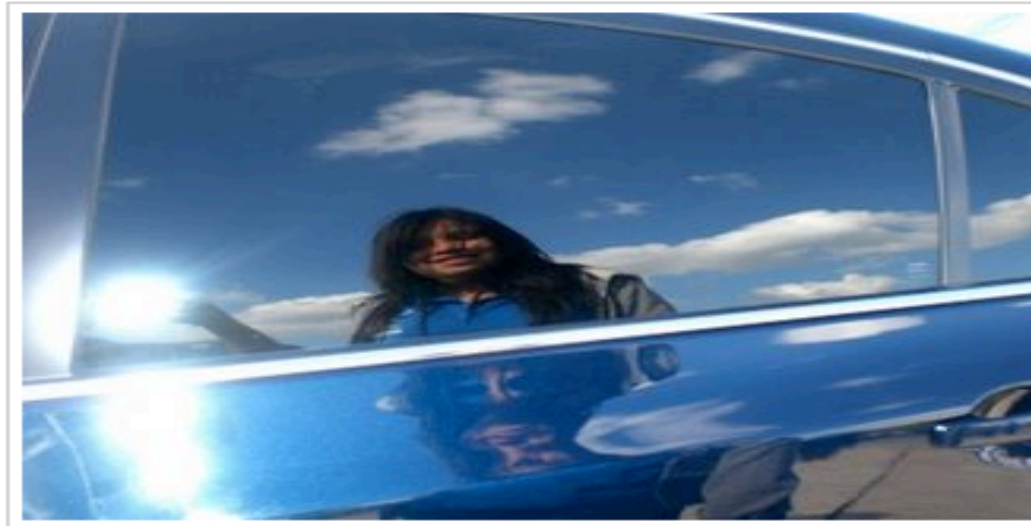
Ivan, 7th Grade, RYSS



I like the shadow and the shape of the tree. I also like it because it shows some other plants and their shadows. You can see some of my surroundings, and you can see me taking the picture. I also like the picture because of the green color and the way the orange and yellow colors come out of the green. In the background, you can see some shadow of the fence and other things behind the fence. On the top left, you can see the white car at a distance leaving like if it was running away from the flash. On the tree shadow, you can see a lot of leaves. I like the shape of the tree because it looks like a monster about to eat you. It looks like one tree, but there are actually two of them.

Ivan, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Geneva, 7th Grade, RYSS



I think this picture is very cool. I like it because it shows my reflection in the window of a car. If you look at it, you can see every detail in the window as if you were looking at the real me. You can also see the reflection of the camera flash. My friend Americo helped me with this picture. My friends said that it was cool. At first, I wondered why everyone was thinking this was a good picture. It was the reflection. You can see the clouds, and you can see my hair moving because of the wind. You can also see my sweater and the actual colors of everything that I am wearing. Some pictures you take will come out very unique.

Geneva, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Francisco, 7th Grade, RYSS



This photo is special because it shows the result of a recent disaster ... Hurricane Ike ... that happened in Houston, Texas. I took this picture because it looked very interesting. It demonstrates that the wind was strong enough to bend and even break a big tree. When I came to school, the tree was knocked down on the school fence. The school called some people to come and cut the tree into many small pieces. This picture is also interesting because it shows shadows of the tree and some other shadows. When I took this picture, I felt kind of sad because of all the people who died in Hurricane Ike.

Francisco, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

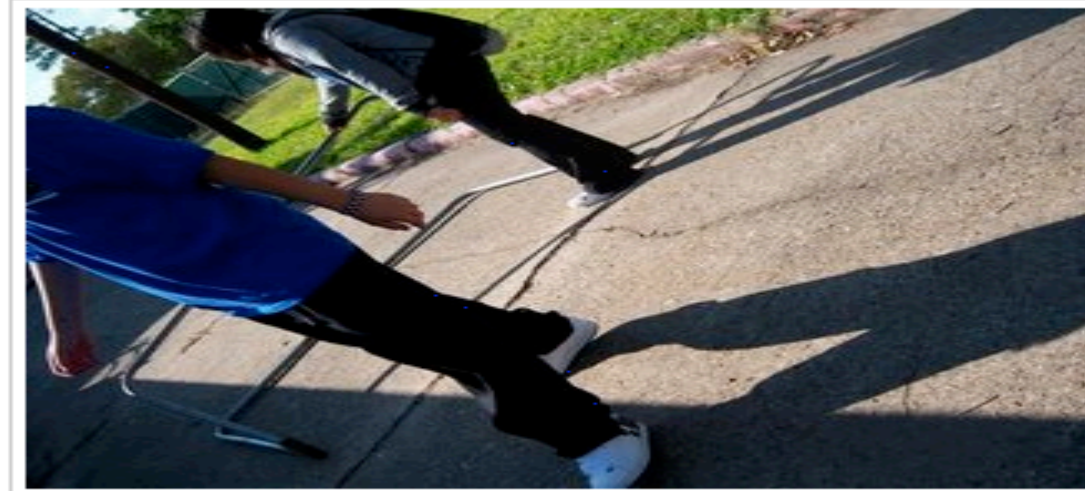
Daniel, 7th Grade, RYSS



I took this picture because it really shows the sport I like. It shows sports in life and how the human body works. The cool thing about this picture is that this boy is running in a kind of slanted way. His shadow is on the concrete. As you can see, he is not looking at the ball. He is looking at the goalie to trick him. If he looks at the goalie, the goalie is going to get confused on which direction the ball will go. So, the boy is looking straight at the goalie to shoot the ball in only one direction, and score a goal. As he runs, there is nothing he could do but to fool the goalie and run faster. The sun is hitting behind to the side of the boy and the ball, so the picture looks really cool to the point it looks really artistic. This picture makes me feel good because I like soccer. I actually like football too, but soccer is my favorite.

Daniel, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Americo, 7th Grade, RYSS



This picture looks like one you might delete, but I like it, and I don't want to delete it because it's not ordinary. It is a picture that has a lot of potential because the people are one way and the shadows are another way. It really looks like a picture that has no way of making it to the big time, but maybe it could. The lighting in the picture is great. It shows human nature in things we normally don't think of doing. It shows how we walk and how we want to touch or see something we want to try. It also shows us the natural and unnatural things that are man-made or God-made. It shows how we don't mean to do things, but can actually get something good out of them. It doesn't mean that all of the non-thinking things are bad. And the picture also doesn't show who took the picture if I'm the guy with the bracelets. So, I did take the picture, and I took it on purpose, but it looks like an accident. When you have a picture that you took by accident, look at it and it may be amazing or a good picture.

Americo, 7th Grade, Junior Academy, Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [RYSS], Houston, Texas

Instructors:

Harold Olejarz is Art and Technology teacher at Eisenhower Middle School, Wyckoff, New Jersey, U.S.A. He began his career as a sculptor and exhibited in Soho, NYC, in the early 1980s. His work evolved into Performance Art and his living sculptures installed themselves in museums and public spaces in the US and Europe from 1985 to the early 1990s. He has been exploring digital media as both an artist and an educator since 1997. "Capturing the Moving Present," an essay by Harold Olejarz, is included in Video Art for the Classroom, a National Art Education Association publication. Olejarz has made presentations on the use of digital media at state and national educational conferences.

Tom Chambers is Technology Applications teacher at Raul Yzaguirre School For Success [Junior School], Houston, Texas, U.S.A. He was Visiting Lecturer in Digital/New Media Art for the Fine Arts Department at Zhaoqing University, Zhaoqing, China, 2005-2007. He was Executive Committee Member and Juror (2003 - 2005) for the International Digital Art Awards (IDAA), and was instrumental in expanding the content of the IDAA to include New Media Art, and served as on-line New Media Director (2004 - 2005). Chambers has been a documentary photographer and visual artist for over thirty years, and he is currently working with the pixel as Minimal Art (Pixelscapes) which begins to approach a true, abstract, visual language in Digital Art.

Copyright, 2009